

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 AGR-01 ACDA-12
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OIC-02 /163 W
-----121139 171417Z /46

P 171330Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3179
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4572

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS-MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: A) STATE 194973 (NOTAL); B) STATE 183452;
C) STATE 188840

1. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON LETTER-EMBASSY DELIVERED
AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S LETTER TO MFA ACTION OFFICER FOR LOS
MATTERS, JACOB WALKATE, AUGUST 4. PROFESSOR RIPHAGEN,
WHO USUALLY HEADS DUTCH LOS DELEGATION, REMAINS ON
VACATION. ON AUGUST 15, WALKATE SAID THAT MFA CONSIDERED
THAT THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN REF B WERE GENERALLY USEFUL;
ON SOME POINTS THEY WERE AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE ICNT.
HE NEVERTHELESS THOUGHT IT BETTER TO HOLD UP ON ANY
PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN THE ICNT UNLESS OTHER COUNTRIES
COME FORWARD WITH THEIR OWN AMENDMENTS. THE U.S.
AMENDMENTS MIGHT STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING ADOPTED
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ONCE OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE REOPENED DISCUSSIONS OF CERTAIN
ARTICLES. WALKATE SAID THAT HE PLANS TO DISCUSS TACTICS WITH THE
U.S. DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS
AUGUST 19 ARRIVAL.

2. ARTICLE 242 BIS-WALKATE COMMENTED THAT THE AMENDMENT
SEEMED VAGUELY FORMULATED AND PROBABLY WOULD REQUIRE

SHAPING UP. HE PLANS TO TALK IT OVER WITH NORMAN WOLF
IN NEW YORK.

3. ARTICLES 265 AND 295-TAKING UP THE ARTICLES DEALING
WITH DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, WALKATE SAID THAT IT WAS MFA'S
UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROPOSAL TO DELETE ARTICLE 265 AND
NOT BEEN ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YANKOV, BUT THAT ARTICLE
265 WAS TO BE RETAINED AS IT STOOD. WALKATE READ
SELECTIONS FROM DUTCH NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE TO THIS
EFFECT. ON SUBSTANCE, MFA PREFERS ARTICLE 296; HOWEVER,
BECAUSE OF TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS THEY WOULD BE CONTENT TO LET
ARTICLE 265 REMAIN.

4. CONTINENTAL SHELF-ACCORDING TO WALKATE, THE IRISH
FORMULA OFFERS THE ONLY BASIS FOR CONSENSUS ON THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, THE DUTCH ARE UNABLE
TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL UNTIL THE INTERNATIONAL
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) DRAWS UP A MAP BASED ON THAT
PROPOSAL. WALKATE WONDERED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
SOVIET PROPOSAL, AND EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CONSULTING
WITH TOM CLINGEN IN NEW YORK TO LEARN HOW IN U.S.
THOUGHT THE VOSIT PROPOSAL WOULD APPEAR ON A
MAP. IN GENERAL, THE DUTCH PREFER A SOLUTION WHICH WILL
PROVIDE THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL SEA AREA, SAID WALKATE,
ALTHOUGH THEY REMAIN FLEXIBLE.

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5. DUTCH DELEGATION-PROFESSOR RIPHAGEN WILL NOT
HEAD THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO NEW YORK NEXT WEEK.
INSTEAD, A. BOS, KAREL VOSSKUHLER, AND WALKATE WILL MAKE
UP THE DELEGATION FROM THE HAGUE.

6. COMMENT: MFA DOES NOT EXPECT VERY MUCH FROM THIS
SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. THE DUTCH VIEW SEEMS TO
AGREE WITH THAT OF AN ASSISTANT TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON
WHO WAS QUOTED BY WALKATE FROM A DUTCH REPORTING TELEGRAM
FROM WASHINGTON: THIS SESSION WILL BE SIMPLY A MATTER
OF "MARKING TIME".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, CONTINENTAL SHELF, POLICIES, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA04572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-0645
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780851/aaaabqxj.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd097061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 194973, 78 STATE 183452
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1704191
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS-MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CONTINENTAL SHELF
TAGS: PLOS, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd097061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014